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99. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide includes an [hedgehog] amino acid sequence which is encoded by at least a portion of a *hedgehog* gene of vertebrate origin corresponding to residues 64-567 of SEQ ID NO:1, residues 64-561 of SEQ ID NO:2, residues 1-348 of SEQ ID NO:3, residues 73-561 of SEQ ID NO:4, and residues 70-558 of SEQ ID NO:5.

100. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said [hedgehog] amino acid sequence is represented in the general formula SEQ ID NO: 41.

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103. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide binds to a naturally occurring patched receptor.

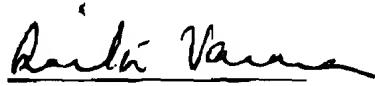
REMARKS

The above amendments are formalistic in nature and do not add any new matter; accordingly, entry of this amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in continuing or divisional applications.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-1448. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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